

## **Department of Justice**

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## MULTIPLE TIME FELON INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

- A felon in possession of a stolen handgun

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville, returned an indictment against **GERALD DWIGHT WEDDLE a/k/a COWBOY**, age 41, of 13305 Dixie Highway, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, on charges of possession of a stolen firearms by a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The Indictment alleges between June 1, 2007, and August 30, 2007 Weddle, a convicted felon, who had previously been convicted, in 1990, in Floyd County, Indiana, under State Indictment 22CO1-8809-CF-100, of Burglary I, in 1995, in the Western District of Kentucky, under Federal Indictment 3:95CR00044-001, of Felon in Possession of Firearms, in 1995, in Carroll County, Kentucky, under State Indictment 95CR0010, of Burglary I, in 1996, in Meade County, Kentucky, under Indictment 05CR0077, of Burglary II, in 1998, in Spencer County, Kentucky, under State Indictment 95CR0080, of two counts of Burglary II, and in 2006, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, under State Indictments 04CR2290/04CR2545, of Illegal Possession of Controlled Substance I (Cocaine), Tampering With Physical Evidence, Illegal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Persistent Felony Offender I, was in possession of a RG

Industries, model RG31, .38 caliber revolver, serial number Q075672, a Marlin, model 25N, .22 caliber bolt action rifle, serial number 2285795, a Marlin, model 1894, .357 caliber rifle, serial number 20046610, and a Remington, model 31, 20 gauge pump action shotgun, serial number 568112. Weddle knew all of the rifles and shotgun to be stolen.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum is Life imprisonment, a \$500,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mac Shannon. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Weddle is scheduled to be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge on June 17, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.